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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the eighth session (23-27 May 2005)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Summary

At its eighth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development considered, under its agenda and programme of work, the substantive theme "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration".

The session provided an opportunity for policymakers and representatives of civil society and international and regional organizations, as well as eminent resource persons, to raise awareness about the importance of science and technology in development and to identify specific measures needed at the national and international levels to ensure that science and technology contribute effectively to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It also provided an opportunity for sharing national experiences, particularly in the use of science and technology to alleviate poverty. One special segment of the session was devoted to the science, technology and innovation policy review of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), at the request of the Government.

Under the substantive theme, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a resolution on science and technology for development, in which the Council would welcome the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005), taking note in particular, of the relevant sections on science and technology for development and underlining the importance of this key subject within the United Nations system. The Council would also welcome all initiatives for substantial support for institutes of higher education and centres of excellence in developing countries, particularly in Africa, such as that of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

The Commission reiterated that effective harnessing of existing and emerging technologies would both reduce the costs of and increase the likelihood of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, the socio-economic benefits of modern science and technology had yet to reach the vast majority of the world's poor. The Commission also observed that in most of the least developed countries, the poor were usually rural small-scale subsistence farmers, as in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions, or urban people engaged in the informal sector. It called for innovative strategies that combined the benefits of conventional science and technology, such as those of the green revolution, with the potential growth enabled by new and emerging technologies, such as information and communication technologies and biotechnologies.

The Commission noted that science and technology institutions in many developing countries needed to be better coordinated and adapted to meeting the development challenges. It called on national Governments to ensure that science, technology and innovation strategies were incorporated in national development strategies, especially those addressing the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission recommended the collection and compilation of case studies on successful experiences and best practices in science, technology and innovation that showcased their positive impact on the Goals. The Commission would continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews to assist developing countries address their specific needs and circumstances.

The Commission noted that research and development in areas of critical concern to developing countries, such as agriculture, health and environmental management, are underfunded. It highlighted the crucial importance of scientific networking in scaling up research in these critical areas and in bridging the current North-South gap in the generation and application of new and emerging technologies. The Commission recognized the need to connect existing centres of excellence in developing countries as hubs of learning and conduits for the transfer and diffusion of scientific knowledge and information, particularly in the area of new and emerging technologies. To that end, UNCTAD would set up a network of centres of excellence on science and technology in developing countries. The aim of the network would be to pool existing resources and facilities to carry out joint research in areas of critical importance to developing countries and reverse the negative impact of the brain drain by generating a critical mass of researchers who could effectively address development challenges.

On the critical issue of infrastructure development, the Commission called for a shift in the mindset of policymakers, to view it not only as critical input to technological activities but also as a key opportunity for technological learning. It called on national Governments to ensure that foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in infrastructure would have a maximum local research and development component and participation in order to facilitate technology transfer and assimilation in developing countries and for the future sustainability of the project.

The Commission observed the enormous potential of information and communication technologies and biotechnologies in helping developing countries meet the Millennium Development Goals and recommended further development of its Internet connectivity benchmarking tool, designed to assist policymakers in assessing their countries' capabilities in terms of connectivity and ease of access. It also recommended that the Council support the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/76) to establish an integrated framework for biotechnology within the United Nations system.

The Commission underlined the central role of science and engineering education, both in addressing development problems of national priority and in helping enterprises remain competitive in the global economy. It called on national Governments to strengthen science and technology educational systems, including through strong gender policies ensuring equal access to technological and scientific studies, appropriate funding, the introduction of entrepreneurial skills and attention to relevant intellectual property rights issues. It also called on Governments to provide science and technology graduates with incentives and resources for starting innovative enterprises, with a view to improving gainful employment.

The Commission proposed recommendations to national Governments to encourage and facilitate the creation and development of innovative enterprises, including through venture capital, to encourage the establishment of business incubators and science and technology parks and, at the same time, to strengthen linkages between public research and private industry and tap into regional and international research and development networks.

In response to General Assembly resolution 57/270 B, in which the Assembly requested each functional commission to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social

Council the adoption of a decision whereby, beginning at its ninth session, the Commission would adopt a biennial programme of work, in the first year focusing on policy analyses and in the second year focusing on operational aspects and implementation; would strengthen the connection between its review of implementation and its policy recommendations; would encourage the active participation of civil society in its panels, electronic working groups and annual sessions; and finally, would strengthen collaboration with other functional commissions of the Council, for example through cooperation and coordination between the various substantive secretariats and bureaux, particularly in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

The Commission heard a report by the Gender Advisory Board on its activities during 2004-2005 and recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a decision to extend the mandate of the Board for a further five years, beginning in January 2006, in order to allow it to complete its programme of work.

The Commission decided to select as its substantive theme for the intersessional period 2005-2006, "Bridging the technology gap between and within nations", with special emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships. The Commission will identify and address concrete aspects of this theme in cooperation with experts at its forthcoming panel meeting.

The Commission proposed the establishment of an informal working group for Africa as part of one of its informal subsidiary bodies, to cooperate with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to address science and technology issues of priority to Africa and to guide the Commission in its future work.

The Commission received pledges of generous financial contributions from the Governments of Italy and Pakistan to the network of centres of excellence to be established by UNCTAD, financial support from the Government of Austria to expand the Internet connectivity benchmarking tool and financial and technical support from the Centre for Information Technology of the State of Geneva to the least developed countries for building capacity in information and communication technologies.

A joint bureau meeting was held between the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on 26 May 2005. The Bureau of the Council commended the Commission on its methods of work, particularly its innovative use of information and communication technologies, the involvement of academia, and the participation of Nobel laureates in its sessions. It observed that the Commission, as an expert body on issues related to science and technology, has proved itself not only useful but also essential to the work of the Organization, especially through its groundbreaking work on information and communication technologies, biotechnologies and the Millennium Development Goals. The Council requested the Commission to further contribute to the process leading up to and the follow-up to the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Science and technology for development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its theme "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration" and taking note of the findings annexed to the present resolution,

Welcoming also the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all",[1] taking note, in particular, of paragraphs 42, 46, 67, 68, 189 and 201 thereof, concerning science and technology for development, underlining the importance of this key subject within the United Nations system, noting the intention of the Secretary-General to appoint a Scientific Adviser and to launch a Council of Development Advisers and noting also the readiness of the Commission to collaborate according to its mandate as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming further all initiatives for substantial support for institutes of higher education and centres of excellence in developing countries, particularly in Africa, such as that of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for Africa,

Expressing its appreciation for the support provided to the Commission by donors, most notably the generous financial contributions of the Governments of Italy and Pakistan to the network of centres of excellence to be established, as well as the financial support provided by Austria to expand the Internet connectivity benchmarking tool and the financial and technical support provided by the Centre for Information Technology of the State of Geneva to assist the least developed countries for building capacity in information and communication technologies,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 58/200 of 23 December 2003, in which the relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology were urged to work cooperatively so as to ensure that countries received sound scientific information and practical advice to enable them to take advantage of those technologies, as appropriate, to promote economic growth and development,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[1] A/59/2005.

1. *Supports* the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General[2] to establish an integrated framework for biotechnology within the United Nations system;

2. *Decides* to make the following recommendations for consideration by national Governments and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development:

(a) Governments are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and undertake the following actions:

(i) Ensure that science, technology and innovation strategies are incorporated in international and national development strategies, especially those addressing the Millennium Development Goals, and ensure that science and technology education and research and technology are a major part of these strategies and are funded adequately;

(ii) Support venture capital and encourage the establishment of business incubators and science and technology parks and, at the same time, strengthen linkages between public research and private industry and tap into regional and international research and development networks;

(iii) Create innovative compensation and reward structures to promote research and innovation directed towards solving development problems aligned with national objectives in such areas as agriculture, health, the environment, the mitigation of natural disasters and the protection of traditional knowledge;

(iv) Strengthen science and technology educational systems, including through strong gender policies ensuring equal access to technological and scientific studies, appropriate funding, the introduction of entrepreneurial skills and attention to relevant intellectual property rights issues, and provide science and technology graduates with incentives and resources for starting innovative enterprises, with a view to improving gainful employment;

(v) Ensure that adequate funding is allocated for the infrastructure for science and technology development, taking into account national needs for technological upgrading and development and providing a favourable working environment for scientists and researchers to attract and keep them in their home countries;

(vi) Ensure that foreign direct investment projects, including infrastructure, have a maximum local research and development component and participation in order to facilitate technology transfer and assimilation in developing countries and for the future sustainability of the project;

(vii) Involve representatives from industry, academia and public sectors in carrying out a comprehensive technology foresight exercise with the purpose of identifying technologies that are likely to help address pressing socio-economic issues, and establish priorities accordingly in science and technology policy and governmental programmes on research and education;

[2] See A/58/76.

(viii) Encourage the design and implementation of science and technology systems targeted at the poor and at adapting conventional science and technologies, such as those of the green revolution, as well as emerging technologies, such as information and communication technologies and biotechnology;

(ix) Ensure that, for the implementation of new technologies, a careful risk/benefit analysis of their impact on the specific environmental and socio-economic conditions of a country is a mandatory prerequisite;

(x) Promote international cooperation and establish linkages aimed at sharing experiences and forging partnerships for the provision of financial assistance and expertise with a view to maximizing coverage of the socio-economic benefits of the progress achieved by modern science and technology;

(b) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is:

(i) Encouraged to facilitate the establishment of a network of centres of excellence in developing countries with a view to allowing scientists and engineers to interact with each other and make use of state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities offered by these centres;

(ii) Requested to collect and compile case studies of successful experiences and best practices in science, technology and innovation that showcase their positive impact on the Millennium Development Goals, with a view to evaluating and benchmarking national science and technology policies;

(iii) Requested to further develop its Internet connectivity benchmarking tool, using extrabudgetary sources;

(iv) Encouraged to continue providing its expertise and analytical skills for science, technology and innovation policy reviews aimed at providing information-based policy recommendations to assist developing countries with their specific needs and circumstances;

New substantive theme and other activities

Recognizing that science and technology are essential in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and that many developing countries will need to enhance their capacity to harness the benefits of technology,

Welcoming the proposal to establish an informal working group for Africa as part of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to address science and technology issues for Africa,

Decides that the substantive theme for the intersessional period 2005-2006 of the Commission will be "Bridging the technology gap between and within nations" and that specific emphasis should be placed on multi-stakeholder partnerships not only for bridging the technology gap but also to prevent it from growing wider; in this regard, the Commission will identify and address concrete aspects of this theme in cooperation with experts at its forthcoming panel meeting.

Annex

Findings

1. None of the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved without appropriate and extensive use of science and technology and without a focused science, technology and innovation policy.

2. The socio-economic benefits of modern science and technology have not reached across all countries and peoples. It is not the lack of technology or technological innovation that hinders countries from fully leveraging this vehicle to socio-economic progress and development, but the lack of commitment and adequate national efforts and/or capacity to harness its potentials.

3. Science and engineering education is of critical importance to developing countries, both in addressing development problems of national priority and in helping enterprises become a major source of national wealth.

4. Introducing subjects relating to information and communication technologies in the early phases of basic education contributes to sustainable development.

5. The building of a critical mass of competent scientists and engineers is prerequisite to carrying out research and development and making proper use of science and technology.

6. A high-quality, research-guided education that takes into account cultural heritage and achievements is a major basis for creating these human resources.

7. Scientific networking through centres of excellence is an important instrument for building scientific and technological capabilities and scaling up research in areas of critical importance to developing countries.

8. An appropriate infrastructure and suitable working conditions for well-trained scientists and engineers is the most important prerequisite for attracting and keeping them in their home country and for turning the "brain drain" into a "brain gain".

9. Adequate investment in education, in particular in universities and technical colleges, and in research institutions and the necessary infrastructure, is essential for keeping these institutions competitive and attractive to potential scientists.

10. Infrastructure development provides not only the foundation for technological activities but also opportunities for technological learning.

11. Foreign direct investment is one of the important sources for building infrastructure. It could also be one of the most potent instruments for transferring technology and knowledge when accompanied by appropriate policies. Infrastructure planning should therefore form a fundamental element of the science, technology and innovation systems of countries.

12. Affordable broadband access to information through the Internet is one of the immediate measures needed for creating and improving the information and communication infrastructure needed by educational and research institutions and by commercial enterprises as well.

13. The development of enterprises, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, is essential to economic growth and employment.

14. Science and technology parks and business incubators are an effective means of commercializing research and creating start-up enterprises.

15. There are a number of open and collaborative projects from which developing countries can reap great benefits. These projects, often referred to as open access regimes, include free and open source software, the human genome project, the single nucleotide polymorphisms consortium, and open academic and scientific journals.

16. Effective harnessing of existing and emerging technologies will both reduce the costs of and increase the likelihood of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Applications in information and communication technology and biotechnology, in particular, hold enormous promise for the achievements of the Goals.

17. For biotechnology to contribute significantly to national objectives to meet the Millennium Development Goals, particularly with regard to reducing poverty and improving health and the environment, developing countries must build the capacity to select, acquire and develop appropriate biotechnologies and manage them in such a way as to avoid or minimize potential threats to health, the environment and socio-economic well-being.

18. Women are central to socio-economic development, not only in traditional activities but also as doctors, engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs.

19. In most least developed countries, the poor are usually rural small-scale subsistence farmers, as in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions, or urban people engaged in the informal sector. Science and technology can be made to work for the poor by designing systems that utilize conventional science and technologies, such as those of the green revolution, and emerging technologies, such as information and communication technologies and biotechnology.

20. There is a clear need to have a more in-depth debate on and analysis of the importance of technological learning as a development booster and the development opportunities created by new technologies in the areas of agriculture, health and the management of sustainable development.

21. Given that most targets in the United Nations Millennium Declaration are to be met by 2015, monitoring and benchmarking mechanisms are essential for ensuring ongoing review, evaluation and analysis of the relevance of national science and technology strategies and their implementation in order to meet the goals.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Extension of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board*

The Economic and Social Council decides to extend the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board for a further five years, beginning from 1 January 2006, in order to

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

allow it to complete its programme of work within the extrabudgetary resources allocated for this purpose.

Draft decision II
Methods of work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development*

The Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, in which the Assembly requested each functional commission of the Economic and Social Council to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and to report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of that examination, and welcoming the innovative means used by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to improve the effectiveness, outreach and impact of its work, particularly by involving eminent experts, such as Nobel laureates, by relying on electronic means, such as the Science and Technology for Development Network (www.unctad.org/stdev), and by establishing an international network of science and technology institutions, decides:

(a) That the Commission, in order to fulfil its mandate, will adopt a biennial programme of work beginning at its ninth session, in the first year focusing on policy analyses and in the second year focusing on operational aspects and implementation, and that the Commission should strengthen the connection between its review of implementation and its policy recommendations;

(b) That the Commission should encourage the active participation of civil society and the private sector in its panels, electronic working groups and annual sessions;

(c) That the Commission should strengthen collaboration with other functional commissions of the Council, for example through cooperation and coordination between the various substantive secretariats and bureaux, particularly in the context of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields.

* For the discussion, see chap. VII.

Draft decision III
Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eighth session;[3]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Commission

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Substantive theme: Bridging the technology gap between and within nations.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General
3. Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the eighth session of the Commission.

   Documentation: Note by the Secretariat
4. National country reports.
5. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the tenth session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the tenth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its ninth session.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 8/101
Documents considered by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its eighth session

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the following documents, which were before it at its eighth session:

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* For the discussion, see chap. IX.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 11* (E/2005/31).

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;[4]

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of, and progress made on, decisions taken at the seventh session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development;[5]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development.[6]

[4] E/CN.16/2005/2 and Corr.1 and 2.
[5] E/CN.16/2005/3.
[6] E/CN.16/2005/4 and Corr.1.

Chapter II

Organizational matters: mandate of the Gender Advisory Board

1. At its 8th meeting, on 26 May 2005, the Commission considered the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board, which was established by the Commission in 1995 to facilitate deliberations of the Commission and follow-up to recommendations made by the Panel on the Gender Implications of Science and Technology for Developing Countries.

2. At the same meeting, the representative of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission made a statement regarding the work of the Board.

Action taken by the Commission

Extension of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board

3. At its 8th meeting, on 26 May, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it extend the mandate of the Board for an additional five years, beginning from 1 January 2006 (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I).

Chapter III

Substantive theme: "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration"

1. The Commission considered item 2 of its agenda at its 1st to 3rd and 7th to 9th meetings, on 23, 24 and 26 to 28 May 2005. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.16/2005/2 and Corr.1 and 2) and an informal paper containing the report of a panel discussion held under the substantive theme in Vienna from 27 to 29 October 2004 (E/CN.16/2005/CRP.1).

2. At its 1st to 3rd meetings, on 23 and 24 May, the Commission held a discussion on the item.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 23 May, statements were made by the following invited speakers: Jerome Karle, Nobel laureate (United States of America); Richard Ernst, Nobel laureate (Switzerland); Atta-ur-Rahman, Federal Minister for Higher Education of Pakistan and Coordinator-General of the Standing Committee on Science and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; Motsoahae Thabane, Minister of Communication, Science and Technology, Lesotho; and Gordon Conway, Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department for International Development, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 May, the Commission heard a statement by the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the following invited speakers: Talal Abu-Gazaleh, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Talal Abu-Gazaleh Organization (TAGO); Bruno Lanvin, Senior Adviser, E-Strategies, World Bank; John Mugabe, Science and Technology Adviser to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); and Sanjaya Lall, Oxford University.

6. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Jamaica, Bolivia, the Sudan, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Greece, Morocco, the Russian Federation and China and the observer for South Africa. The invited speakers responded to questions raised.

7. At the 3rd meeting, on 24 May, the Commission heard introductory remarks by the Chairman regarding the findings and recommendations of the panel meeting held in Vienna from 27 to 29 October 2004.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Italy, Jamaica, Peru, Sierra Leone, India, Greece, Chile, Romania, Morocco and Jordan and the observer for the African Union. The Chief of the Science and Technology Section of UNCTAD responded to points raised during the discussion.

9. At the 7th meeting, on 26 May, comments were made by the representative of Italy and the Chairman, to which the Deputy Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development, UNCTAD, responded.

Action taken by the Commission

Science and technology for development

10. At the 8th meeting, on 26 May, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development", which had been submitted by him in an informal paper under agenda item 2.

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Jordan, the Sudan, Sierra Leone, Italy, Belgium, Oman and Romania.

12. At its 9th meeting, on 27 May, the Commission had before it a revised text of the draft resolution, which the Chairman further orally revised.

13. Statements were made by the representatives of Lesotho, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, the Sudan, Morocco, Italy, Belgium, Jamaica, Romania and Angola.

14. At the same meeting, the Commission recommended the draft resolution, as revised and amended during the discussion, to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A).

15. Statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Germany and Jamaica.

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

16. At its 9th meeting, on 27 May, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.16/2005/2 and Corr.1 and 2) submitted under agenda item 2 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 8/101).

Chapter IV

Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the eighth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 24 May 2005. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the implementation of, and progress made on, decisions taken at the seventh session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.16/2005/3).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of UNCTAD.

3. Statements were made by the representatives of Jordan, Slovakia and Lesotho.

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

4. At its 9th meeting, on 27 May, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the note by the Secretariat (E/CN.16/2005/3) submitted under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 8/101).

Chapter V
National country reports

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 5th meetings, on 24 and 25 May 2005. It had before it an informal paper containing a compilation of reports from countries regarding their national experiences in science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.16/2005/CRP.2).

2. At its 3rd meeting, on 24 May, the Commission heard presentations by the representatives of Romania and Oman.

3. At the 4th meeting, on 24 May, presentations were made by the representatives of Angola, South Africa, China, Morocco, Greece, Turkey, Jordan and Peru.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, India, Romania and Morocco.

5. At its 5th meeting, on 25 May, the Commission heard a report by the Deputy Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development, UNCTAD, on the science, technology and innovation policy review of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, China, Jamaica, Austria, India, Angola, Jordan, the Sudan, Greece, Sierra Leone, Peru and Morocco.

7. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran responded to points raised during the discussion.

Chapter VI

Contribution of international organizations to the work of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 25 May 2005, during which it heard presentations by the following invited entities: International Labour Organization; World Health Organization; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations; International Telecommunication Union; European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); International Network for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises; United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies; Engineers of the World; Economic Commission for Africa; United Nations Environment Programme; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; World Trade Organization; Centre of Research and Documentation February '74 (CERFE).

Chapter VII
Methods of work of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 7th, 8th and 9th meetings, on 26 and 27 May 2005. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.16/2005/4 and Corr.1).

2. At the 7th meeting, on 26 May, the representative of the Science and Technology Section of UNCTAD made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Belgium, India, Greece, Jordan, Jamaica, China, Romania, Italy, Turkey and Sierra Leone.

Action taken by the Commission

Methods of work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

4. At the 8th meeting, on 26 May, the Chairman introduced a draft decision entitled "Methods of work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development", which had been submitted by him in an informal paper under agenda item 6.

5. At its 9th meeting, on 27 May, the Commission recommended the text of the draft decision to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

6. At its 9th meeting, on 27 May, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.16/2005/4 and Corr.1) submitted under agenda item 6 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 8/101).

Chapter VIII

Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the ninth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 26 May 2005, at which it elected by acclamation the following officers for its ninth session:

Chairman:

Pedro Sebastião Teta (Angola)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Hisham Khatib (Jordan)
Rolanda Predescu (Romania)
Bernd Michael Rode (Austria)
Arnoldo Ventura (Jamaica)

2. At the 9th meeting, on 27 May, the Chairman-elect of the ninth session of the Commission made a statement.

Chapter IX

Provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 26 May 2005. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its ninth session.

2. Statements were made by the representatives of India, Morocco, Italy, Belgium and Romania.

3. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its ninth session, as amended during the discussion, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision III).

Chapter X

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighth session

1. At the 9th meeting, on 27 May 2005, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission with rapporteurial responsibilities, Rolanda Predescu (Romania), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its eighth session (E/CN.16/2005/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its eighth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter XI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its eighth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 23 to 27 May 2005. The Commission held 9 meetings (1st to 9th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairman, Bernd Michael Rode (Austria), who also made an opening statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 23 May, the Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by representatives of 29 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2005/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

5. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 27 May 2004, the Commission had elected the following members of the Bureau of its eighth session by acclamation:

Chairman:
Bernd Michael Rode (Austria)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Hamid Bouabid (Morocco)
Jin Ju (China)
Rolanda Predescu (Romania)
Arnoldo Ventura (Jamaica)

6. At its 1st meeting, on 23 May, the Commission designated Ms. Rolanda Predescu (Romania) Vice-Chairperson with rapporteurial responsibilities.

D. Agenda and organization of work

7. At its 1st meeting, on 23 May, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.16/2005/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Substantive theme: "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration".

3. Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the seventh session of the Commission.

4. National country reports.

5. Contribution of international organizations to the work of the Commission.

6. Methods of work of the Commission.

7. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the ninth session of the Commission.

8. Provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Commission.

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighth session.

E. Documentation

8. The documents before the Commission at its eighth session are listed in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its eighth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.16/2005/1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
E/CN.16/2005/2 and Corr.1 and 2	2	Report of the Secretary-General on science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
E/CN.16/2005/3	3	Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of, and progress made on, decisions taken at the seventh session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development
E/CN.16/2005/4 and Corr.1	6	Report by the Secretary-General on the review of methods of work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development
E/CN.16/2005/L.1	9	Draft report of the Commission on its eighth session

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